

REMARKS:

Upon entry of the Amendment above, claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, 15, 21-37, 54, 56-67, 130-168 and 170-199 will be pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36, 37, 54, 198 and 199 are amended, and claims 2, 18-20, 38-42 and 55 are cancelled. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised, by this amendment. Subject matter of dependent claims has been introduced into independent claims.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate all the limitations of claims 21-37 and any intervening claims. Claims 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36 and 37 are amended to change dependency due to the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 54, 198 and 199 are amended to incorporate all the limitations of claims 21-37, including limitations from the claims from which they previously depended.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter of claims cancelled during the prosecution of this application and subject matter not claimed in a continuing application, such as a continuation or divisional application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 15, 18-20, 38-42, 54-65, and 130-199 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rezai (US 2002/0116030). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Independent claims 1, 54, 198 and 199 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 21-37, which have not been rejected as being anticipated by Rezai. Accordingly, any of claims 1-4, 8-10, 15, 18-20, 38-42, 54-65, and 130-199 still pending are outside the scope of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 63-67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Rezai (US No. 2002/0116030). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent it is maintained.

Independent claim 54, from which claims 63-67 depend, has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 21-37, which have not been rejected as being obvious in light of Rezai. Accordingly, claims 63-67 are outside the scope of the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 15, 17-42, 54-67, and 130-199 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of Application No. 11/467,963. As the rejection is provisional, Applicants will address the rejection should it be applicable following the issuance of any of claims 1-21 in the copending application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that the subject matter of claims 21-37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 21-37. Independent claims 54, 198 and 199 have also been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 21-37. Accordingly, all claims still pending in this application incorporate the subject matter of prior claims 21-37.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as all rejections have been overcome. Early notice of allowability is kindly requested.

Applicant believes that no fees are required for submission of this paper and associated documents. However, if any fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3964 for fees in connection with this filing.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 651.259.6704 or by E-mail at kcampbell@cnwiplaw.com with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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